

ARC-15201-1

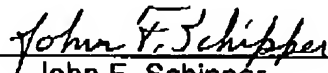
PATENT

Remarks/Arguments:

In response to receipt of an Office Action, mailed 27 January 2006, and further Office Actions, mailed 15 June 2006 and 29 June 2006, for the patent application identified above, requiring an election of claims between a thermal protection system transition region and a thermal protection system ceramic bonding approach, the Applicants herewith cancel claims 16-23 and elect to proceed with prosecution of claims 1-15. Ceramic bonding is explicitly recited in independent claim 16, and claims 17-23 dependent thereon, but is not explicitly recited in independent claim 1 or in claims 2-15 dependent thereon. The Examiner has not indicated groups of claims to which an election can be directed. If the claims election herein needs to be modified, the Applicants request that the Examiner explicitly indicate claim groups from the initially filed application that should be considered in making the election. If the claims election in this response is not accepted, the Applicants withdraw the cancellation of claims 16-23 and will enter a new claims election according to the choices indicated by the Examiner.

In the claims, please cancel claims 16-23, subject to the proviso set forth in the preceding paragraph. Amend claims 1-3, 7-10 and 14-15 to read as listed.

Respectfully submitted,



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31 July 2006
Date